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PROGRAM Morning Edition

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CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT CIA Plot/Spies to Vietnam

JEAN COCHRAN: Vietnamese authorities have given details of what they describe as a CIA plot to send spies into Vietnam's Highlands region to commit sabotage. The BBC's Southeast Asian correspondent, Jack Thompson, has more in this report.

JACK THOMPSON: The official Vietnamese news media has released an account of a press conference held in Hanoi on Tuesday at which the leader of this group of spies, named as Vo Dai Tung, is supposed to have confessed to his crimes. He said he'd arrived in Thailand last year to study infiltration routes into Vietnam through Laos. In September, Vo Dai Tung said, he and an unspecified number of followers again set out from Thailand and made for the town of Atapu in Laos.

One member of the group was killed in Laos, and they were all eventually abandoned by their guides, who Tung described as agents of the CIA-trained Lao tribesman, General Vung Pao.

Tung is reported to have confessed that he made contact with and received assistance from a number of foreign espionage organizations, including the CIA.

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